



Sacred Heart Academy

2108 Sichel Street

Los Angeles 31, California

October 7, 1949

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.D.

Dear Father,

Almost eleven months have passed since I came out to see you last November. You will probably have almost forgotten that the object of my visit was to consult you regarding my joining a contemplative order. Or at least you will be inclined to think that I have forgotten about it. No, indeed, Father, it has had a very prominent place in my thoughts and in my heart, even during the busy days of preparing 125 First Communicants, of teaching vacation school of preparing the Girls' Choir for High Mass every Sunday and other such like duties.

I have tried to convince myself that that life was not for me since God has placed me here for over seventeen years and given me those gifts which would enable me to teach. However, during the summer months I found

myself battling with the same arguments. In August, I had a chance, rather accidentally, to speak to Mother Gabriel several times. Mother waived the question of a dowry which had seemed to me an obstacle, especially after my Mother General had mentioned it. After speaking to Mother Gabriel it was difficult to quench the desire and longing for a cloistered life.

However, for the present, I have determined to give the matter no consideration, and decided that if God wants the change He will give a very definite sign. I hope this is not a rash conclusion.

I have tried to do all the things you advised, Father, especially to lead a more recollected life. I have cut out of my life a number of things that were not conducive to a life of prayer.

The thing that worries me is that perhaps I am acting against God's Will, that perhaps it is my selfishness and lack of generosity that have induced me to the conclusion I have taken. I try not to think about it because I know that if I did I would take action immediately.

Do you think I am doing wrong?

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Pamplona. A 11 de Octubre de 1949.

R. P. Juan Luis de Ellacuría, C. M. F.

Querido Juan Luis: Aunque ya van cinco cartas, sin que hayan sido meritorias para una contestación por tu parte, te vuelvo a escribir. Que el Señor nos lleve por los caminos de su divina Providencia. En mi anterior te decía que rogabas mucho por un tal ALONSO AILLANDU, primera fortuna de Bilbao y una de las primeras de España. Ya no ruegues, pues murió el 29 de Septiembre en Las Arenas, víctima de un tumor maligno, que empezó su fase destructiva, cuando predisamente estaban apalabrándose definitivamente a mediados del mes de Agosto Mary Tere y él. La Madre sigue mejor, gracias a Dios.

Mañana, 12, saldremos el P. Barbarin y servidor a Bilbao, para predicar sendos Triduos para la Coronación de la imagen del Corazón de María de nuestra Iglesia de Bilbao. Está de Superior el P. Lazcano. Procuraré mandarte los periódicos en que venga la relación, sobre todo, la Gaceta del Norte.

A últimos de este mes empezaré una difícil y comprometida Misión en El Ferrol del Caudillo, llevando los sermones morales, según me comunica el P. Silvino Nebreda, de parte del P. Superior, quien se halla muy ocupado con la preparación para el Capítulo próximo. Espero tus poderosas ayudas de oración y cooperación moral; misionan varias parejas de PP. Jesuitas, Franciscanos, etc. Yo debo representar a nuestra Congregación y toda preparación y ayuda me será necesaria.

Espero que puedas venir en la Canonización de nuestro Beato P. Fundador, puesto que varios de los que se encuentran en esa Casa ya han estado en Roma. No te lo pregunto, porque bastante será que tengas la gentileza de escribirme; te advierto que, así como me gusta ser cumplido con todo el mundo, aun el infimo, no suelo sentir ningún interés por aquellos que tienen incorrecciones graves conmigo; así sean más influ-

yentes que un Rey... Aunque no puedo explicarme tu conducta, pienso que tendrás motivos suficientes para conducirte de aquesta manera.

Tal vez en la siguiente carta te contare el caso de dos mon-
jas que, en un convento de Aragón se trago la tierra...¿? Hoy nos lo ha

referido el P. Echarrí y pensamos adquirir noticias ciertas...

referido el P. Encarnación y pensamos que en la si-
guiente carta te podré decir que un Monumento en u-
Navarra ha gastado más de 20 millones de pts. nos será entregado en u-
Ledices al P.

[illegible]

El 25 de este mes empieza el Capturo Provincial de la División de la casa de Segovia va a ser General parece que la división es inmediata;

realiza. Si viene el P. Preciado a la Canonización, podría él traer las máquinas de cine, porque no le han de pedir cuentas, como ocurrió la vez anterior.

Recibe un fuerte abrazo de tu hermano que de veras
y remuendos. *Don. Florencio Lacunza*

Saint Patrick Academy
Mokenca, Illinois

J.M.J.

October 12, 1949.

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Los Angeles, California.

Rev. dear Father:

It is quite awhile since I have written to you or heard from you. I would give anything to have the opportunity to talk to you. Your letter to Mother St. Eugene was much appreciated and I know it did Mother much good. God is asking much of Mother these days. She went back to Manteno about two weeks ago - on a strict diet which was to last for three weeks. After that she is to return to the hospital - and surgery may be necessary. It looks as though she has an obstruction in the intestines. She was only back at Manteno a few days when she sprained her ankle. I know that you keep her in your prayers.

As for myself - things have not been too good. I have told you how I felt about our new superior and how things have gone. I waited until Mother Rose Mary came back from Canada. She obliged me in obedience to tell Mother Viator just how I felt about things. I did so - but it did not help matters. Things have continued practically the same. We simply cannot see things in the same manner. As far as execution of commands or orders is concerned, I have fulfilled them faithfully to the letter - but as far as my will and judgment are concerned - it is another matter. Mother disagrees with practically everything I have built up during the twenty-seven years I have been here. Instead of decreasing my work, she has increased it considerably. I am obeying in all and I am trying to see God behind it all -- but it is and has been most difficult. Father Julian came as our

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extraordinary confessor. I spoke to him about things. He spoke of the night of the soul and of the necessity of suffering. He advised me against asking for a change. The following day, we had a Jesuit come for our day of recollection and I also spoke to him. He advised me not to rationalize or think about orders, etc. but to obey blindly; then if after a sufficient time, we were absolutely incompatible, it would be best ~~for~~ to ask for a change. I saw Rev. Mother shortly after this; she was disappointed that things were not better. She agreed with Father Julian that this was probably the night of the soul for me and that as soon as I could adjust myself to it and accept it with resignation, that things would be better.

All of this, together with the extra work, has taken its toll upon my physical strength. I saw the doctor about two weeks ago and he found conditions most unfavorable. He demands that I relax, be relieved from tension, rest, and lighten my work. Shortly after this, I received a letter from Monsignor Healy, superintendent of schools and chancellor of the diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, to preside at one of the meetings of their annual teachers' institute to be held in Little Rock on October 28. He wished me to be discussion leader for the primary grade section. This will entail extra work but it seemed impossible to refuse. Rev. Mother, therefore, decided to make her visit in Hot Springs now. We are leaving for Hot Springs on the evening of October 21. We shall be there about ten days. I would appreciate your offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for me on October 28, that I may accomplish at the meeting what God wishes of me.

I attended a supervisor's meeting in Chicago on Monday of this week. This afforded me an opportunity of going to St. Peter's Church and of speaking to Father Cuthbert. He advised me first of all to resign myself to conditions as they exist, secondly to re-consecrate myself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; thirdly, to entrust everything to Them

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and to increase my prayer; fourthly, to be reverential and respectful to my superior but to be totally fearless in carrying out my duties as principal and supervisor in the manner in which I saw my duty. He told me to ask Rev. Mother to define for me the things in which I was immediately under her and those in which I was immediately under my superior. This would eliminate my being kept from fulfilling duties as principal or supervisor even though my manner of fulfilling them would not please my superior.

And now as I look over all of this, Father, I again ask myself, why, why, why? Surely God does not wish religious life to be a perfect hell on earth. Why must one person be able to cause so much suffering to others? Why must one superior come in to a house and turn everything upside down? Why must one by her actions totally condemn the former superior? Why, why, why? If I could only see that this is the night of the soul for me and that God is really asking all of this, I know that I could accept it but I cannot see it. I do not wish in any of this to criticize Mother in any way. She is an excellent religious and I believe that she is acting according to her own conscience in everything. Before my entrance to religious life, we were very close friends.

I know that I can count on your prayers, Father. I am sorry that I cannot write you better news. A word from you would help, if you can find time to write. Sister Mary Mediatrix is not at all well; she is back at Mercy Hospital in Chicago. They may use surgery but it is not certain yet. She has suffered much. Begging your blessing and your prayers, I remain

Gratefully in Him

Sister Mary Dolores

Los Angeles, October 18. 1949

Reverend and dear Father,

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of our last meeting. I'm sorry I'm so late with it.

The meeting was wonderful. I was particularly happy over the assignment of the Three Rosaries a day. I used to think it hard to do; but not any more. I find a great consolation in it. Sometimes during the day, while I'm saying my rosaries I become so happy that I could shout or sing. I also get the wonderful feeling that absolutely nothing can hurt me any more, since I'm so close to Our Lady. I feel her very close to me and have a much greater confidence in her than before. I can actually feel the power of the Rosary.

I believe you have been told of the wonderful reconversion that took place in Mrs. Flocca's house the other night. ^{through Lucille's help} Our Lady is letting me have a little share in this. This Mrs. Placido has asked to help with her prayers, since she has forgotten them all. So Sunday I want to Mass with her and on Monday and Friday evenings I go to instructions with her. Please say a prayer, or rather some prayers, so we may be able to convince her daughter who is 25, married and very stubborn, to come and take instructions with her mother. Please Father !!! Mrs. Placido is very unhappy about her daughter; but very happy about her own conversion. She says she feels such peace in her soul, since she has gone to confession and Holy Communion.

I'm happy that my boys had an opportunity to speak with you even a few minutes the other night, coming and going to the meeting. I hope we will be able to do this some day again. They need your prayers very badly; so does my daughter Cecilia who is 16.

Thanking you for your many prayers and assuring you of mine, I remain very respectfully through the Sweet Heart of Mary

*Your very obedient spir. daughter
Maria C.*

ST. GENEVIEVE CONVENT
4846 MONTANA STREET
CHICAGO 39, ILLINOIS

October 19, 1949

Dear Father Rognier,

Several days ago I learned, through my mother, that you have received both my letters. This relieved my mind considerably as I was afraid they had never reached you.

Father, I understand, only too well, that you have many duties and grave responsibilities that require much of your time, however, I continue to hope and pray that you will find a few moments, soon, for a letter to me. It has been four months since I last talked with you and, it seems to me, that my spiritual life is beginning to show it.

Mary Virginia

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No, nothing drastic ~~has~~ happened but I feel certain
that I do much better when I have your advice and
encouragement to spur me on.

There have been occasional relapses into faults
such as violations of silence and uncharitable
conversations. Neither of these have been of a serious
nature but, at present, they are the faults that
are causing me the greatest worry. Actually,
I detest them, and yet, if I am the least bit off
guard, I am apt to fail! I have confessed them,
made reparation for them, and prayed for grace
to overcome them, but still. I fail! You see
how weak I am.

How Our Lord can be so patient and loving

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with me, I do not understand. But He continues, in spite of my faults, to lavish me with His grace. He allows me to feel His Presence in the Blessed Sacrament in so wonderful a way. There, He draws me so close to Himself and permits me love Him. Yes, really to love Him!

Each morning I promise faithfully not to hurt Him during the day - but, some days, I do!

Sometimes I think I am not retiring enough. I have not withdrawn sufficiently enough from others. Perhaps I am still too friendly with my pupils and all this may be an obstacle to my perfection. I do so want to reach the top. Mediocrity is definitely not for me, I am convinced, but the

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WEDNESDAY MORNING
AUGUST 10. 1892

climb is difficult at times. I am constantly wondering what I should do.

Are you still praying for me, Father? Please do! I am so anxious to go all the way.

Please remember me to Alvin. A letter from his mother told me of his return to the Novitiate. I am so happy about it.

I have a few seventh grade boys this year that I hope to send to your Junior Seminary. Do pray for them. Several priests have been here to give talks on Vacations but, so far, no Claretians. I hope we'll have one before long.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart,

Sister Mary Virginia

Los Angeles, Oct. 21. 1949

Rev. and dear Father Mayrins,

On the Feastday of your holy and beloved founder Bd. Anthony M. Claret we would like to congratulate you most heartily. We love him very much; we'll pray that through his intercession the Immaculate Heart of Mary may grant you all the graces and blessings you need. We also would like ^{to} congratulate your fine boys on the Feastday of this holy Man whom they have

chosen as their model. How proud
they must be, to be with the Covenanters
and to be called Miss. Sons of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary:-

With the kindest regards from
all we remain very respectfully yours
in the Heart of Mary, your

Heart of Mary Guild
Maria Roth, sec.

P.S. We have one new
prospect for a convert, &
we wish to return to the
Sacraments; please remember them Fr.!

L. A. Thursday morn.

Dear Father Alapins,

I will
mail
you the
list of

I would like to thank you
for the wonderful day of Recollection we
were privileged to experience yester-
day. I will try my best with God's
grace to be most passive in the
hands of the Holy Spirit and to
practice charity and humility when
ever possible. Spiritually I feel
at peace this morning, thank God.

that were enrolled.

but physically I feel much worse
than yesterday. My heart bothers me
very much, it even hurts. I'm not able
to do very much. May I ask you to
pray for me, so that I may feel a
little better and will be able to do my
work. of course only if it is his will.
I will be very happy if I don't feel
better. Please remember also the sister
of Mrs. Tunica, the eyes of Alberta
Purdy and the candidature of Lucille
Spoley. Thank you for talking so
encouraging at your 2 o'clock conference
for her. May God bless & love you. Marie R. J.

Wednesday morning, Oct. 26. 1949

Rev. and dear Father,

Since I just finished the minutes of our last meeting, may I please enclose a few lines concerning my spiritual life ;especially since I told you Monday that I would like to talk with you so very much. That day especially I would have liked to have the chance, because so much had happened to me spiritually in the last few days that made me want to share it with you. I'm very happy every day, especially in the morning at mass and more so after Holy Communion, in fact so much so that I don't even want to move to get up at the last gospel or after Mass for the prayers after mass. I have to make a real effort. I wanted to ask you about that. I feel as though my dear Lord was taking more and more possession of me. This is what I have prayed for, but I did not know it would be so wonderful. --What must heaven be like.---

On the 29. in the morning at two AM when we were supposed to spend an hour in adoration in reparation to the Sacred Heart, it was one of the sweetest hours I have ever spent.

On Saturday the Feastday of Blessed Anthony M. Claret was a very beautiful day. All day I was so conscious of the presence of our Lord and every time I thought of Bl. Anthony a real sweetness came over me. He certainly has done much for me. That evening I was so drawn to church and to the Blessed Sacrament. Thank God the church was open because it was Saturday. I went to confession, but it was a real effort, because all I could think of was, how much I loved Our dear Lord in the tabernacle; I could hardly think of anything else.

Sunday I went with some of my children and my husband to the cathedral for the annual Mission Sunday celebration, and in the evening we visited Lucille who was ill. She and I talked much about our Lord and the Blessed Mother.

During the night I had the most beautiful dream: I was in a hospital corridor with some other people and all of a sudden we heard the ringing of a tiny little bell; my friends wanted to know what that was for, so I said, it must be the Blessed Sacrament coming down the corridor to be taken to some sick person. So we crowded into the doorway and tried to kneel down. All of a sudden I looked up at the door across from us when I saw a figure surrounded by a bright light. At first it looked like a young postulant and I thought it was St. Margaret Mary, but it changed quickly and turned into the Little Flower. She smiled so sweetly at all of us, but I kept hoping that she would look at me. Finally she turned to look at me ever so sweetly and said: "You are Maria Elisabeth". (This is really my name.) That was the end of my dream. But the sweetness of it stayed with me all day. It almost disturbed me, when after Holy Communion that morning that picture kept coming back to me. That is another thing I wanted to ask you about. I thought nothing would ever be able to keep me from concentrating about Our Lord within me. Of course I fought it off. -----Something happened at noon on Monday; I don't know whether there is any connection with my dream or not. A friend of mine came, so see me about something and brought me the most beautiful red rosebud out of her garden. After she was gone, it came to me that it might be a little favor of the little Flower, at least I appreciated it very much and thanked Our dear Lord and the Little Flower for being so thoughtful with me. --Now you know why I wanted to talk to you. At least I was able to talk with you and receive your blessing. Thank God for that.

Monday night Our Lord gave me a little cross after all that sweetness. After I went to instructions with our friend and I walked home; but all of a sudden I hated to go into my house, because I

knew it would be full of commotion and noise with all the children listening to the radio and doing their homework. A terrible sadness overcame me and my children noticed it. My daughter told me, that I'm committing a sin going around with such a face, but I could hardly help myself. I wished so much to be alone. I have no room of my own, where I could be by myself. So I thought of the Little Flower; I knew that she would have used this opportunity to do penance and I tried very hard to do the same.

Another thing I wanted to ask you is, that sometimes while I'm saying my vocal prayer I feel myself drawn away and I can't say another word. Of course I let myself be led because I believe from what I have learned about the spiritual life that mental prayer is so much higher than vocal. Lately I do hardly any vocal, especially not after Holy Communion. But I would like to talk with you about it some day. I don't know whether you could talk about this at one of our meetings?

I'm praying very hard for your intention in regard to your Novitiate and I hope Our dear Lord will move the soul of whoever is responsible soon.

I haven't told you that Our Lord has granted me a very great privilege right here in our parish. Our pastor wants to introduce the Apostleship of Prayer (The League of the Sacred Heart) and he appointed me to help him put it over. Isn't that wonderful that I will be able to bring the message of the Sacred Heart to many here in our parish, that never knew or cared much for this devotion? This Thursday at our evening devotion we will have a talk on Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary and on the next morning, a Communion in Reparation to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Please pray that there may be a real wave of Love to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I hope I haven't burdened you too much with details and I thank you so very much, for letting me tell you these things.

Begging for you blessing, I remain very respectfully in the Heart of Mary

Your very obedient spir. daughter Maria T.